Entry of professionals in U.K.

1590. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of UK has, recently, decided to curb the entry of doctors and other professionals from outside Europe;

(b) if so, whether such a decision of the UK Government would have an adverse impact on thousands of Indians;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether Government proposes to take up the matter with the UK Government and to protect the interest of Indian Doctors/Engineers in UK; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The UK has amended their immigration laws and has launched a Point- Based System (PBS) in 2008 to streamline the entry of non EU workers into UK. Under the new PBS, there will be a five-tier framework, through which non-EU nationals could come to gain entry into UK for work, study or training on fulfilment of prescribed conditions. The five tiers have different conditions, previleges and entry clearance checks. Tier-1 of PBS for highly skilled workers has replaced the erstwhile Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP), and has been implemented by UK for India from 1st April 2008. Indian professionals who wish to come to UK for work may do so under Tier 1 (highly skilled individuals like doctors and engineers) without any specific job offer but the individual should get the minimum points needed to become eligible for entry under this Tier. Tier 2 for skilled workers has been implemented for India from November 27, 2008 and is meant for skilled professionals. Indian professionals can come to UK under Tier 2 through two separate routes - those outside the shortage occupation list may be directly recruited by the UK companies under Points Based System on fulfilling certain conditions, and those within the shortage occupation list can come to UK if they have a specific job offer. The revision of the shortage occupation list drawn up by the UK government is in progress. The last revision made in October 2009, dropped certain categories while adding several other disciplines to the shortage occupation list.

(d) and (e) The issue has been taken up with the Government of UK in bilateral meetings, urging them to ensure that the new system does not pose hurdles for Indian professionals to enter or stay in the UK.

Welfare of people returning from abroad

1591. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state: